

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An accelerator for mineral absorption, which comprises as an effective ingredient cyclic tetrasaccharide represented by cyclo(\rightarrow 6)- α -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)- α -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 6)- α -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)- α -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow) and/or a saccharide derivative thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) The accelerator of claim 1, which comprises ~~in addition to said cyclic tetrasaccharide represented by cyclo(\rightarrow 6)- α -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)- α -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 6)- α -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)- α -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow) and/or said saccharide derivative thereof~~ one or more members selected from the group consisting of mineral compounds and substances having a mineral absorption promoting action.

3. (Currently Amended) The accelerator of claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, which comprises ~~in addition to said cyclic tetrasaccharide represented by cyclo(\rightarrow 6)- α -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)- α -D-~~

~~glucopyranosyl (1-6) α -D-glucopyranosyl (1-3) α -D-glucopyranosyl (1-)~~ and/or said saccharide derivative thereof one or more members, ~~excluding said cyclic tetrasaccharide and said saccharide derivative thereof,~~ selected from the group consisting of monosaccharides, oligosaccharides, sugar alcohols, cyclodextrins, vitamins, water-soluble polysaccharides, spices, acidifiers, delicious taste imparting seasoning, liquors, organic acids, non-organic acids, emulsifiers, perfumeries and colorants.

4. (Currently Amended) The accelerator of claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein said mineral compound is one or more members selected from the group consisting of calcium compounds, magnesium compounds, potassium compounds, sodium compounds, iron compounds, manganese compounds, cobalt compounds, copper compounds, zinc compounds, selenium compounds, fluorine compounds and iodine compounds.

5. (Currently Amended) The accelerator of ~~any one of claims 2 to 4~~ claim 2, wherein said substance having a mineral absorption promoting action, is one or more members selected from the group consisting of casein phosphopeptide, vitamin, polyphenol and oligosaccharide.

6. (Currently Amended) The accelerator of ~~any one of~~
~~claims 2 to 5~~ claim 5, wherein said vitamin is one or more
members selected from the group consisting of vitamin D,
vitamin K, L-ascorbic acid and derivatives thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) The accelerator of ~~any one of~~
~~claims 2 to 6~~ claim 5, wherein said polyphenol is one or more
members selected from the group consisting of flavonoids
~~including hesperetin, naringenin, quercetin, hesperidin,~~
~~enzyme-glycosylated narindin, rutin, enzyme-glycosylated rutin~~
~~and proanthocyanidin, catechin, and epigallocatechin.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The accelerator of ~~any one of~~
~~claims 2 to 7~~ claim 5, wherein said oligosaccharide is one or
more members selected from the group consisting of
fractooligosaccharide, isomaltooligosaccharide,
xylooligosaccharide, lactosucrose, soybean oligosaccharide,
kojioligosaccharide, galactosylglucoside, saccharide
derivative of α,α -trehalose, α,α -trehalose and/or α,β -trehalose.

9. (Currently Amended) The accelerator of ~~any one of~~
~~claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, which comprises said cyclic
tetrasaccharide represented by cyclo{ $\rightarrow 6$ }- α -D-glucopyranosyl-
(1 \rightarrow 3)- α -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 6)- α -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)- α -D-

In re of: OKU 12

glucopyranosyl-(1→} and/or said saccharide derivative thereof in an amount of 0.1 % by weight or more, on a dry solid basis.

10. (Currently Amended) The accelerator of ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, which is used as an agent for strengthening calcium-containing tissue.

11. (Currently Amended) The accelerator of ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, which is used as an agent for strengthening bone.

12. (Currently Amended) The accelerator of ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, which is used as an agent for lowering foreign taste and/or foreign smell.

13. (Currently Amended) A composition ~~for accelerating mineral absorption, which contains the accelerator of any one of claims 1 to 12~~ comprises cyclic tetrasaccharide represented by cyclo{→6)-α-D-glucopyranosyl-(1→3)-α-D-glucopyranosyl-(1→6)-α-D-glucopyranosyl-(1→3)-α-D-glucopyranosyl-(1→} and/or a saccharide derivative thereof, and one or more members selected from the group consisting of mineral compounds and substances having a mineral absorption promoting action.

14. (New) The composition of claim 13, which comprises one or more members selected from the group consisting of monosaccharides, oligosaccharides, sugar alcohols, cyclodextrins, vitamins, water-soluble polysaccharides, spices, acidifiers, delicious taste imparting seasoning, liquors, organic acids, non-organic acids, emulsifiers, perfumeries and colorants.